

REMARKS

With the above amendments, claims 1-4, 6 and 10-12 are pending in the application. Claims 7-9 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claim 5 is hereby canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 10, and 12 are hereby amended. No new matter is being added.

Substance of Examiner Interview

On May 2, 2008, applicants' attorney, James Okamoto, had a telephonic interview with Claire Wang, the Examiner for the present application. During the interview, the applicants' attorney explained the clear patentable distinctions of claim 5 over FIG. 14 of Caglar et al. Applicants' attorney further explained that claim 6 was similarly distinguished over Caglar et al.

The Examiner recommended filing an After-Final Amendment. The Examiner said that upon receipt of such an After-Final Amendment, she would further review Caglar et al. and possibly perform further searching. The Examiner indicated that, if appropriate, she would allow the amended claims.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 stand rejected as anticipated by Caglar et al (USP 2002/0071485). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in relation to the claims as they now stand.

Claim 1, as amended, recites as follows.

1. A method for encoding and decoding a video sequence in which a keyframe is used to bi-directionally predict frames in the sequence, the method comprising:

coding said keyframe independently of other frames in the sequence; and

predicting a prior unidirectional predicted frame occurring before said keyframe using data from said keyframe and not from any other keyframe, directly or indirectly;

predicting a subsequent unidirectional predicted frame occurring after the keyframe using the data from said keyframe and not from any other keyframe, directly or indirectly; and

bi-directionally predicting a prior intervening frame using the data from the keyframe and data from the prior unidirectional predicted frame, without using data derived from any other keyframe, wherein the prior intervening frame occurs between the keyframe and the prior unidirectional predicted frame.

(Emphasis added.)

As emphasized above, claim 1 now incorporates the limitation previously in claim 5.

As discussed with the Examiner during the Examiner Interview on May 2, 2008, claim 5 is patentably distinguished over Caglar et al. In particular, FIG. 14 of Caglar et al. does not disclose or suggest the limitations of “**bi-directionally predicting a prior intervening frame using the data from the keyframe and data from the prior unidirectional predicted frame, without using data derived from any other keyframe, wherein the prior intervening frame occurs between the keyframe and the prior unidirectional predicted frame.**” This is because, given the I1 frame as a keyframe and the P3 frame as a prior unidirectional predicted frame in FIG. 14, the P2 frame cannot be a prior “intervening” frame since P2 does not occur *between* the I1 and P3 frames.

Therefore, for at least the above-discussed reasons, applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 overcomes this rejection.

Claims 2-4 and 6 depend from claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-4 and 6 overcome this rejection for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1.

In addition, as discussed with the Examiner during the Examiner Interview on May 2, 2008, FIG. 14 of Caglar et al. does not disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 6. This is because, given the I1 frame as a keyframe and the P4 frame as a subsequent unidirectional predicted frame in FIG. 14, the P5 frame cannot be a subsequent “intervening” frame since P5 does not occur *between* the I1 and P4 frames.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 10-12 stand rejected as unpatentable over Caglar et al (USP 2002/0071485) in view of Hyodo et al (US 6,021,250). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in relation to the claims as they now stand.

Claim 10 is currently amended to add limitations similar to the limitations discussed above in relation to claims 1 and 6. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claims 1 and 6, claim 10 is now patentable over Caglar et al.

Hyodo et al. is cited for disclosing at least three P-frames predicted by an I frame. The citation to Hyodo et al. does not cure the above-discussed deficiencies of Caglar et al.

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 is now patentably distinguished over Caglar et al. in view of Hyodo et al.

Claims 11-12 depend from claim 10. As such, applicants respectfully submit that claims 11-12 also overcome this rejection.

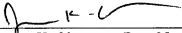
Conclusion

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 6 and 10-12 are shown to be patentable over the applied art. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 436-2111 for any questions.

If for any reason an insufficient fee has been paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the insufficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-2427.

Respectfully submitted,

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